

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

PORTUGUESE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ALABAMA.

From the N. Y. World. The cable tells us that the London Times of last Monday, in a leader on the High Commission, says:—

"The case of the Alabama has always created a feeling of insecurity in England, and has demonstrated that the arbitrators will acquit England of responsibility for the deeds of the Alabama."

"The Times adds that the Alabama was partially fitted out at the Azores, and hence Portugal is liable to our experience."

"We are at a loss to see how the Alabama case has demoralized our politics. On the contrary, our politics on the point of British liability is especially clear and constant. We have the possibility of a just settlement as warmly as does the Times, but a treaty which acquits 'England of responsibility for the deeds of the Alabama' would not be worth, with our people, the paper on which it is written."

"For Portuguese liability, we can say to the Times that we have a responsible party in Great Britain, and we shall not let the original drawer of the bill slip our grip. And besides Portugal was never indorse. Messrs. Laird, of Birkenhead, contracted with Captain Bullock, in behalf of the Confederates, to build the Alabama for about \$250,000, including provisions for four months. The money was paid in chief part through Frazer, Trenholm & Co., of Liverpool. The British Government had notice of her ownership and destination. She sailed three or four days sooner than she was expected, on account of information received that the ministry contemplated her seizure. She left Liverpool Wednesday, July 29, 1862, ran down to Moelia Bay, and lay there all the next Friday morning undisturbed, when she went to the Azores through the Irish Channel. The passage was made in ten or eleven days. At Porto Praya the bark Agrippina, from Liverpool, under the British flag, hauled alongside. Two or three days after the steamer Dahama, from Liverpool, arrived with the officers for the Alabama, and took the Agrippina in tow to Angola, where the whole party was ordered off by the authorities, and the three vessels put further out to sea; and then into the Alabama were discharged her guns, supplies, ammunition, etc., all under the British flag. When everything was ready Captain Semmes assumed command and the Confederate flag was hoisted."

"The whole enterprise, from the beginning to end, was Confederate and British. No officer or servant of her Britannic Majesty ever interfered in Liverpool, Moelia Bay, or the Azores to destroy the scheme. On the other hand, not a Portuguese encouraged, participated in, or tolerated it. Big England cannot skulk behind little Portugal."

THE EPISCOPAL PROBLEM.

From the Golden Age (edited by Theodore Tilton). Our Episcopal brethren are considerably troubled and somewhat vexed by the state of their usually placid communion. Mr. Cheney's parish sustains him with a unanimity and enthusiasm which is one of the most encouraging signs of the times in the religious world; and though the High Church papers reported that he had been guilty of administering the rite of Confirmation, thus usurping the functions of a Bishop, the statement was at once authoritatively contradicted, to the evident chagrin of those who wished to make capital against this courageous and popular representative of freedom as against ecclesiastical despotism."

"Dr. Cooper's withdrawal from the Episcopal fold in consequence of the constant fighting of the lines and turning of the screws upon the mind and conscience of those who dare to reason and to feel, is an intimation whose significance only the blinded bigots fail to see. The Protestant Churchman, one of the wretched journals in the body, deplors 'the wretchedness of the system which drives such men from our ministry,' and says:—'We have the strange fact presented to us that while the Church of England is manifestly too rigid and uncomprehensive to retain his position as Bishop of the Church, the Episcopal Church in this country has become still more unelastic and intolerant; and unmindful of the fact that, not being an Established Church, she has not that hold upon her children, she not only closes her doors upon many who would do her honor, but crowds scores of clergy and hundreds of laity out of her fold. This is owing partly to the apathy of many of our laity, and partly to the narrowness of many of our clergy, but still more to the crafty designs of some of our bishops, the yielding compliance and folly of others, and the weakness and cowardice of some, who, notwithstanding the solemn responsibility of knowing their duty, 'let I dare not wait upon I would.'"

"One of two things it would seem is inevitable: either the Episcopal Church must break asunder or liberalize. Its leaders have to choose between gradual and pacific renovation, or a stormy revolt which may shatter the Church itself to pieces. Eight years after the Revolution, the Episcopal Convention at Philadelphia did its Americanize that Church. It dropped the Nicene and Athanasian creeds, cut down the Articles from thirty-nine to twenty, and erased 'descended into hell' from the remarkable instrument known as the Creed of the Apostles. These excisions indicate the liberality and progressive spirit of that early day; and had this liberal spirit and progressive policy controlled its subsequent action, and continued to characterize its doings, it would have been the most important and influential, if not the largest and most popular, Church in America to-day. But that Church has gone back on her history, barred away her bright light for haubles, and lost her splendid opportunity beyond recovery. Whether she can save herself from dismemberment depends almost entirely upon whether her leaders will adjust her doctrines and ritual to the actual faith and needs of our people. Will they make that Church the educator of sons and a force in American society, or merely a depository of antique theological furniture, and a gallery for the exhibition of ecclesiastical military? The Church was made for men. From the action of the Episcopal leaders it would seem that the Church was made for bishops."

THE TRUE SOURCE OF REPUBLICAN CORRUPTION.

From the N. Y. Times. Senator Fenton denies that he is in any way responsible for the treachery of Winans. We are very glad that he is able to do so with a clear conscience. His friends, however, make a great mistake in charging upon us the sole

responsibility of the reports which implicate him. The Albany correspondents of several papers mentioned these reports as having obtained wide circulation; and the truth is that Senator Fenton's own actions gave rise to them. We pointed out as a strange and "unfortunate coincidence" that Senator Fenton should have held a prolonged interview with Jay Gould on the very day before Winans announced his transfer to Tammany and Erie. Mr. Gould did not call upon Mr. Fenton, as the Tribune insinuates. Senator Fenton went to the Erie offices to see Mr. Gould, and the fact of the interview was well known in the city on Friday night, before Winans' defection was heard of or suspected. Senator Fenton's past connection with Erie, the obligations he owes to the directors and the favors they owe to him, have long been well understood. When the traitor was found to be an Erie man, from Senator Fenton's county, people could not help "putting two and two together," and coming to the conclusion that Senator Fenton had been consulted in the transaction."

"Undoubtedly we could not have had proof that Mr. Fenton 'desired, or suspected, or imagined, that Winans would betray his party,' for positive proof is never attainable in such cases. Senator Fenton was not likely to put his name to any document which would implicate him in the business—he is too old a politician for that. Few men are less likely to commit themselves in such a way as to be inconvenient hereafter. The Tribune says he is not a fool—no one ever suspected him of being that. In such cases, as in many others, people judge from circumstantial evidence, and the presumptions here were much against Governor Fenton. A man sometimes suffers through keeping bad company—it is unavoidable. It is a well-known, and most deplorable fact, that the greater number of Mr. Fenton's friends in this city are men who are always doing the work of Tammany—and doing it in scarcely a less disgraceful manner than that in which Winans performed it in Albany. They are men who are in the pay of Tammany, and are only employed by the Tammany leaders because they are useful to them. They call themselves Republicans, while they do all that lies in their power to keep the corrupt Democrats in possession of the State. Honest Democrats, who wish as heartily as we do to see Tweed and his clique broken down, know very well that the greatest obstacles in their path are created by the 'Tammany Republicans.' To this class of Republicans almost all Senator Fenton's friends belong. When, therefore, another Tammany Republican turned up at Albany, from Senator Fenton's own county, the general rumor was that Senator Fenton could not have been without some foreknowledge of the occurrence. Men who are practically working for Tweed and his gang nine days out of ten have not much right to complain if, on the tenth day, they are wrongfully suspected of carrying on the same line of business."

"If Senator Fenton is in earnest in saying that he deplores the Republican schemes in New York, and condemns any combination or course of action which 'does not tend to strengthen our cause,' he will undoubtedly separate himself unequivocally from the 'Republicans' who are employed by Tammany to weaken and distract the party. He is far too sagacious a man not to perceive that the prime cause of our weakness here is the presence in our ranks of men who are slavish dependants of Tammany. They are always scheming against us, and just now they have a double motive for scheming, since they are bitter enemies of the administration. It is useless for a man who is foremost in creating dissensions to say, 'let us all be good friends together.' He himself renders reconciliation impossible. If Senator Fenton would assist in the work of sifting out the false Republicans from the true ones, he would afford the best possible guarantee of the sincerity of his present professions. How can he reconcile it with a desire for Republican unity to countenance men who are helping to support the rule under which corruption runs riot—a rule which can be guilty of such 'legislation' as we have seen during the last few days at Albany? His Republican associates, who are in the pay of Tammany, and the men who are tramping under foot the principles of free government, are all in the same boat together. This is not a time in which any Republican can serve the Democrats without treachery to his own party. Events have brought out the issue, 'purity against corruption, into very bold relief, and he who is not in the contest for right is against us. Senator Fenton's political friends in this city are almost all on the side of the party which adopts corruption as the only principle of government worth fighting for. If he thus allies himself with Tammany, he must expect to share the odium of Tammany's violent and ignominious proceedings—of such bills as those which have been rushed through the Legislature during the last forty-eight hours, the Governor, meanwhile, standing ready with pen in hand to sign them. The Republicans ought to be arrayed as one man against Tammany in the presence of a crisis such as that in which we are now placed—but they are not; many of them are paid to give support and support to the knaves who are turning legislative government into a farce. Among such men, Senator Fenton's friends are very numerous. He cannot divest himself of all responsibility for the course they pursue. His influence is great, and if he exerted it on the right side Tammany would soon lose all its Republican supporters. Until that result is accomplished, if Senator Fenton has tried to accomplish it, we shall have incessant and hopeless divisions in the Republican party, and Senator Fenton's professions about desiring to see it reunited will be received with incredulity, if not with derision."

PARTISAN TAXATION.

From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce. The method now adopted of enforcing the payment of an income tax is more glaringly unequal, and subject to more partisan oppression, than in any former year. The new law exempts all incomes under \$2000, and the taxing process is so arranged by the department that every man who chooses not to make a return is left alone or not at the pleasure of the assessor. The object of General Pleasanton in this ruling was undoubtedly to make the system as little burdensome as possible to the mass of the people; but it places every man in the community entirely at the mercy of subordinate officials, many of whom are certain to use the power for partisan influence and success."

"Under the old law every man was obliged to make a return whether he had any income or not, and thus (although by the conditions of application, great inequality prevailed) all were brought alike into the presence of the law, and made to testify under oath to the truth of their declaration. Even where such apparent equality prevailed, there were cases of hardship and oppression, where individuals who were obnoxious to the minor officials upon personal or political grounds were made to suffer indignity, were put to

serious trouble in defending themselves from evident injustice, and, in too many cases, were actually wronged without any sufficient legal redress within the possibilities of the case."

"When the question of continuing this tax came up in Congress, we were almost alone in our prediction that the dominant party would not relinquish the power it gave them, to be used for political ends in a quiet but efficient way in every community. That prediction was ridiculed, but vindicated in the result, and the tax was reimposed in a still more unjust and tyrannical form. Here are a thousand people in one community, but the tax, in theory, is to rest only upon those whose income exceeds two thousand dollars. If every one made a sworn return, much injustice would still prevail, but there would be equality in terms. As now interpreted, however, the law is held out to require this. Those whose income is not \$2000 need make no return; and every man who is left alone, even though his income is \$10,000 a year, need make no return. If he is all right with the assessor, he may thus be left off, and he makes no sign himself. If the assessor will, however, he can not only hunt out very sharply those opposed to him who ought to make a return, but he can require every man he chooses to suspect, to submit to a rigid examination and establish his right to the exemption. Those who cannot see in the possession of such power the means of properly intimidation, coercion, or retaliation, must understand very little of human nature and the wiles of a party campaign. It is this hold upon their fellow-citizens which the income tax gives to those in power that led to its renewal for another term."

"We do not see any legal protection that can be given the private citizen against this tyranny and injustice, nor are we sanguine in regard to the final remedy for the enforcement of the tax. Such a levy is unconstitutional beyond all reasonable doubt; but the courts are in the hands of the oppressor, and civil process has been properly hampered and restrained by them, that it can neither be used to prevent the wrong, nor to furnish prompt redress for those who suffer."

"Our faith in the security of rights both of person and property on the ground of their recognition in that solemn covenant, once held so sacred, has been very much shaken within the last few years. The Constitution has proved a vain defense against the will of a strong party possessing the reins of government; and, although the end of the struggle is not yet, our past experience has taught us that nothing in that instrument will stand before such tyranny in its determined efforts to perpetuate its own authority, and retain its ascendancy in the place of power."

COMPOSITION OF THE SPANISH CORTES.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The despatches which came by cable announcing the entire success of the Government party in the Spanish elections, are not confirmed by the fuller advices received by us. It is true that the Ministry will have no more than a bare majority for the transaction of business in the present Cortes. The Ministry counts only 185 supporters to confront an opposition numbering 174. It is true that this opposition is by no means homogeneous, embracing, in fact, the most violent political adversaries. There are 61 republicans, 57 Carlists, 48 conservatives, and 8 friends of Espartero. It would seem impossible to harmonize, even on a point of order, such furiously conflicting elements—but in reality a coalition for a special purpose is frequently formed, and successfully carried out, by the factions we have mentioned. The Government phalanx is not much more compact or trustworthy. It consists of 120 Progressistas, 45 Unionists, and 20 Democrats. As long as the powerful social and political influence of General Prim remained, there seemed some prospect of holding this motley party together; but it requires little foresight to predict that the great dividing lines which will soon pervade it, when the distribution of the prizes of place and power occupies the attention of the Cabinet, already there is a feeling of some bitterness among the Progressistas that the Unionists have received so unequal a share of the spoils of office from the new dynasty. Serrano, the head of that small but able party of intrigants, is President of the Council, and naturally favors his own partisans at the expense of the old friends of Prim. The Democrats are liable at any moment to follow their natural instinct, and unite with the republicans, with whom they have far more sympathy than with the reactionary and time-serving Unionists."

"On the other hand, the opposition is so divided that it is inefficient for any other purpose than to retard legislation and embarrass the proceedings of the majority. There can be no point in common in matters of principle or policy between the Republicans and the Carlists, and yet they agree so heartily in their enmity to the dynasty of Savoy that in the elections, where the cause showed a majority of one of these parties, the other sustained its candidates against the official nominees. In addition to these coalesced champions of liberty and despotism, there are in the opposition benches some half hundred so-called conservatives, chiefly old-fashioned placemen, who expect to share again in the emoluments of office if the Queen or her son returns. The eight Esparteristas are worthy old gentlemen, who have a fellow-feeling for the gray hairs of the hero of Logrono, and who can be thoroughly relied on never to do an improper or a practical thing. It is not difficult for a Chamber the composition of which is so divided, to be composed to effect any really decisive legislation in favor of the present dynasty or against it. Of course there is no possibility of the slender fractions of Republicans, Absolutists, or Alfonsists doing anything to change the form of government to their own advantage. But it is none the less evident that the Ministry will be greatly restrained and hampered by the scantiness of its majority and the fear of further defections. It will be remembered that in the late Constituent Assembly the united opposition to the candidature of Prince Amadeus numbered only 139 members. In the recent contest the opposition has increased in 174 districts. Some of the deputies elect are ineligible; others have been chosen in several places. But Mr. Garrido, in a communication lately printed, estimates the opposition members who will take their seats this session as not less than 160. No government in Spain considers itself permanent with an opposition so numerous as this. It represents a more powerful and important constituency than the majority. The four great cities of Barcelona, Seville, Malaga, and Valencia send twelve Republican and four Monarchical deputies. The same proportion is seen in the secondary cities, and everywhere in the considerable towns and villages the Republican vote is unexpectedly large. The rural districts, as in France, are more under the influence of the priesthood and of Government officers, and so make good the losses incurred in the centres of population and intelligence. The vote of Madrid is

especially significant. It is a city of office-holders, and most of the leading citizens are attached to the Government for the time being. But, with a large garrison quartered there for the purpose of voting, the Government candidates received only 24,000 votes to 18,000 of the opposition, 10,000 of which were Republican. It must be confessed that, with so bitter an opposition and so languid a support, the Government of King Amadeus begins its work with no rosy prospects."

SPECIAL NOTICES.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY, Office No. 227 South FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, April 15, 1871. As special meeting of the Stockholders of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company will be held at the office of the said Company, in the city of Philadelphia, on the eighth day of May, 1871, at 12 o'clock M., when and where the joint agreement entered into by the Board of Managers of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company and the Board of Directors of the Lebanon and Tremont Railroad Company, for the consolidation of the said companies, and the merger of the Northern Liberties and Penn Township Railroad Company into the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, will be submitted to the said stockholders, and a vote by ballot in person, or by proxy, taken for the adoption or rejection of the same. J. W. JONES, Secretary.

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SCHUYLKILL AND SUSQUEHANNA RAILROAD COMPANY, Office, No. 227 South FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, April 10, 1871. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an Election for President and six Managers will take place at the Office of the Company on MONDAY, the 1st day of May next, at 12 o'clock M. ALBERT FOSTER, Secretary.

THE CHEAPEST AND BEST HAIR DYE IN THE WORLD. Harper's Liquid Hair Dye Never Fades or Will Change Gray, Red, or Faded Hair, Whiskers, or Moustache to a beautiful black or brown as soon as applied. Warranted, or money returned. Only 50 cents a box. Sold at all Druggists. 325 N. 3rd St. ALBERT FOSTER, Secretary.

THE UNION FIRE EXTINGUISHER COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA. Manufacture and sell the Improved, Portable Fire Extinguisher. Always Reliable. D. T. GAGE, General Agent. No. 118 MARKET ST.

NORTHERN LIBERTIES AND PENN TOWNSHIP RAILROAD CO., Office No. 227 S. FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1871. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company, and an Election for Officers to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at the Office of the Company, on MONDAY, the 1st day of May next, at 11 o'clock A. M. ALBERT FOSTER, Secretary.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE BAKER SILVER MINING COMPANY, of Colorado, will be held at the office of the company on THURSDAY, April 20, 1871, at 12 o'clock, noon, for the election of directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may be deemed necessary. JOHN WIEST, Secretary.

DR. F. R. THOMAS, No. 91 WALNUT ST., formerly operator at the Cotton Dental Rooms, devotes his entire practice to extracting teeth without pain, with fresh nitrous oxide gas. 11 1/2

THURSTON'S IVORY PEARL TOOTH POWDER is the best article for cleaning and preserving the teeth. Sold by all Druggists. Price 25 and 50 cents per bottle. 11 1/2

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PHILADELPHIA. A RELIABLE Safe Home Investment. THE Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad Company 7 PER CENT. GOLD First Mortgage Bonds. Interest Payable April and October, Free of State and United States Taxes.

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WM. PAINTER & CO., BANKERS, Dealers in Government Securities, No. 36 South THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

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WM. PAINTER & CO., BANKERS, And Dealers in Government Securities, No. 36 South THIRD Street, PHILADELPHIA. SPECIAL NOTICE TO INVESTORS. A Choice Security. We are now able to supply a limited amount of the Catawissa Railroad Company's 7 PER CENT. CONVERTIBLE MORTGAGE BONDS FREE OF STATE AND UNITED STATES TAX. They are issued for the sole purpose of building the extension from MILLTON TO WILLIAMSSPORT, a distance of 30 miles, and are secured by a lien on the entire road of nearly 100 miles, fully equipped and doing a flourishing business. When it is considered that the entire indebtedness of the Company will be less than \$15,000 per mile, leaving out their valuable Coal Property of 1800 acres, it will be seen at once what an unusual amount of security is attached to these bonds, and they therefore must command themselves to the most prudent investors. An additional advantage is, that they can be converted, at the option of the holder, after 15 years, into the Preferred Stock, at par. They are registered Coupon Bonds (a great safeguard), issued in sums of \$500 and \$1000. Interest payable February and August. Price 92 1/2 and accrued interest, leaving a good margin for advance. For further information, apply to

D. C. WHARTON SMITH & CO., No. 121 SOUTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA. DUNN BROTHERS, BANKERS, Nos. 51 and 53 S. THIRD ST. Dealers in Mercantile Paper, Collateral Loans, Government Securities, and Gold. Draw Bills of Exchange on the Union Bank of London, and issue travellers' letters of credit through Messrs. BOWLES BROS & CO., available in all the cities of Europe. Make Collections on all points. Execute orders for Bonds and Stocks at Board of Brokers. Allow interest on Deposits, subject to check at sight. 13

FOR SALE, Six Per Cent. Loan of the City of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Free of all Taxes, At 85 and Accrued Interest. These Bonds are made absolutely secure by act of Legislature compelling the city to levy sufficient tax to pay interest and principal. P. S. PETERSON & CO., No. 39 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA. 5 PER CENT. New United States Loan. Agents appointed to receive subscriptions or exchange

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